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Swedish UFO Research

Archives for UFO Research

Anders Liljegren on how to preserve your resources

Anne Silk asks ***Why Todmorden***

MASS HYSTERIA could it be the
solution.

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Editorial Address:

The New UFOlogist.
71 Knight Avenue,
Canterbury. Kent.
CT2 8PY.
England.

Fax: +44 1227 764589.

E-mail address:

mhudson@newufo.win-uk.net

Editorial Panel:-

Albert Budden.
Paul Fuller.
Rodney Howarth.
Michael Hudson.
Jenny Randles.

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Archives for UFO Research:

Personal recollections of preserving the history of UFO's and UFO research

by Anders Liljegren.

Anders Liljegren is a programmer and systems analyst who works with design and maintenance of computer systems. He has been interested in UFOs since the mid-60's and active in Swedish UFOlogy since 1969. His articles have appeared in more than 30 magazines worldwide and include FSR, MUFON, UFO Journal and IUR.

Unidentified flying objects (UFOs) have existed as a widespread international social phenomenon for almost fifty years. On national or regional levels, sightings of unidentified aerial phenomena certainly have existed for thousands of years. The folklore of signs and sightings in the sky is enormous. Sweden, as one of the globe's several hundred nations, has a fairly long and detailed history of involvement with UFO-type phenomena, official/military as well as civilian/idealistic.

Archives for UFO research (AFU) has chosen as its main objective to document and preserve the history of UFO research and ufology, particularly the Swedish and Scandinavian part of that history. This article details personal insights from "the AFU

project" since the start, twenty-two years ago. No doubt AFU is now one of the largest repositories for UFO data in the world. It is financed not by membership fees but by engaged and supporting sponsors. It is one of the world's few UFO resource and research centers with daily opening hours and a full-time staff. Maybe AFU could be a model for similar national or regional archives, libraries and research/info centers around the globe?

Archives for UFO Research started as an idea in 1973. Then named simply "Arbetsgruppen för ufologi" (The Study group for Ufology), its origin was a common occurrence in ufology: three people (Hkan Blomqvist, Kjell Jonsson and the author) who broke out of a larger group discontented with the ideology and public image of that group.

UFO-Sweden, the large group in question, had been founded in 1970 by enthusiast Carl-Axel Jonzon as a national organization to unite and coordinate the work of local Swedish UFO groups. After three years of work for UFO-Sweden the three of us felt that research, which was our main interest, was of secondary

importance in the UFO-Sweden scheme. Instead UFO-Sweden, and in particular its founder/chairman, made a priority of public opinion-making (often with ill-founded, even esoteric, data), and Keyhoe-style political fighting against non-understanding military investigators (believed to be administering a non-proven government "cover-up").

The feeling in our small group was that UFO research could only be promoted by learning and knowing the facts if there were any! Of course, one man's fact is often another man's non-fact, but generally we were striving for a more intellectual research climate, based on the scientific method. Particularly, we wanted to separate the subject from the occult and contactee-oriented philosophy that so permeated Swedish ufology (here often called "ifology", because the objects under study were "proven" to be interplanetary). Our "enemies" - you soon find you have "enemies" if you declare a firm non-New Age opinion - regarded us as unrealistic book-worms. Maybe so. Time has proven, however, that our line of thought had the power to make our interest in UFOs survive while many of our adversaries sooner or later tired of ufology or went missing in the fogs of the New Age.

Phase one: The library

Anyway, "finding the facts" wasn't easy. Where we look for them?

Edista, a Stockholm book shop owned by Bertil Kuhlemann that imported Anglo-American books, became one of our main

information sources. A considerable part of my modest salary as a young computer programmer and my two AFU colleagues pay as librarians were spent on books and magazine subscriptions. Despite this, large parts of the literature was unavailable to us and to many of our colleagues.

The Danish UFO Center created by Willy Wegner was a model to us. Wegner was augmenting a central library collection of UFO and "off-beat" literature. We wanted, however, a more open attitude towards our colleagues, and a collection that was openly available to others on a somewhat broader scale.

Establishing a postal lending library for UFO literature soon became our main project. In particular, it was Kjell Jonsson's idea. From 1975 people anywhere in Sweden could join AFU, pay a small fee, and borrow books via postal service. Our theory was that newcomers should have a much better (and cheaper) chance to learn the basics. We started with 350 books in Kjell's small one-room apartment, the majority of which were donated by Stockholm ufologist Lennart Johansson.

Soon the project grew and Kjell filled his closets and his basement store. Each year several hundred books were dispatched to near and far off places all over the country. Believe it or not, most of them were returned! Our newsletters and library lists were mailed to slightly less than one hundred supporters. The operation ran on a shoe-string

budget with materials donated by ourselves or by kind colleagues. A few years later, in 1977, Kjell graduated from the library high school with the masterpiece of his life: a 144-page bibliography of Swedish UFO literature, reprinted and published by AFU in 1978.

My own interest in UFOs had returned in 1976 after a short period of not even wanting to hear a certain three-letter acronym. Recovering from "years of denial", and reshaped into an even more skeptical ufologist, I took over from Hkan Blomqvist as editor of the *AFU Newsletter* (from 1979 published in English). I threw myself into the study of the material released from the Stockholm War Archives by the Swedish government on the 1930s ghost flier wave. I also located and published the newsfile of TT (the Swedish news agency) on the 1946 ghost rockets wave. If people only had an inkling of all the interesting things hidden in our public archives.

1978-79 I spent on other large projects which were educational: a statistical study of 602 Swedish high-strangeness reports and the coding of 1,000 Swedish cases into CUFOs' database UFOCAT. This work helped to further cement my ideas in the UFO field. Ufology should be built on large files of well-researched facts, not on rumours and belief in heavenly saviours. I despised the rumour-mongers and published hard-hitting, critical reviews of some Swedish books with such a tendency.

Phase two: A new home for the library

1979-80 was an important period of transition for AFU. Phase two started. Kjell Jonsson grew tired of endless hours of managing our lending library. He suffered badly from asthma. (Unfortunately, his short life ended in an asthma attack in 1986).

The responsibility for the collection was transferred to myself and to Sven-Olov Svensson, one of the most frequent users of the library. The library (by now more than 800 titles) moved 130 kilometres to Norrköping and into a 38 square meters basement locality which several people had keys to, and shared the costs for. Now, AFU transformed into a foundation with a small board of directors and, finally, the meaning of the "AFU" acronym was changed to Arkivet för UFO-forskning (Archives for UFO research) to mark the broadening of our scope.

Since we had now underlined the archives aspect of our work, our new direction started a landslide of donated and deposited material, and not only books and magazines. An increasing percentage of English material in the *AFU Newsletter* stimulated many international contacts. A steady flow of exchange publications has made the collection of "serial publications" on the UFO subject one of the most extensive in the world.

The Rehn donation

Swedish veteran ufologist and UFO book author K. Gosta Rehn was slowly becoming a blind man (an awful fate for an intellectual, educated man!). In

1978 he donated large parts of his book collection to us. Eleven years later, shortly after Rehn's death, Hakan Blomqvist and I found thirty-two binders of correspondence and working papers in a garbage room behind his former home. If we had come one or two days later the papers would have vanished forever, marooned on a Stockholm garbage dump!

Rehn maintained a lively world-wide correspondence with most of ufology's bright stars: from McDonald to Klass. Rehn was APRO's Swedish representative since 1959 and a friend of the Lorenzens. His very personal correspondence with Coral Lorenzen provides a unique insight into the daily work and problems at APRO headquarters. With the APRO files sold to a private collector and part of Ufology's history seemingly forgotten the AFU archives may have a unique gem. In Coral's letters to Rehn we often learn facts and rumours not written about in the APRO Bulletins.

Rehn's correspondence files were of no interest to his daughter thus it couldn't be of interest to anyone else. This attitude towards the preservation of history is something every archivist knows about and learns to expect. Yet, everytime it happens you are dumbfounded. How many similar, invaluable "interest collections" are lost each year? The Rehn case was a lesson to us: never be shy to ask for a possible donation and do it now don't wait until tomorrow! We even designed a special will form for potential future donors.

The GICOFF archives

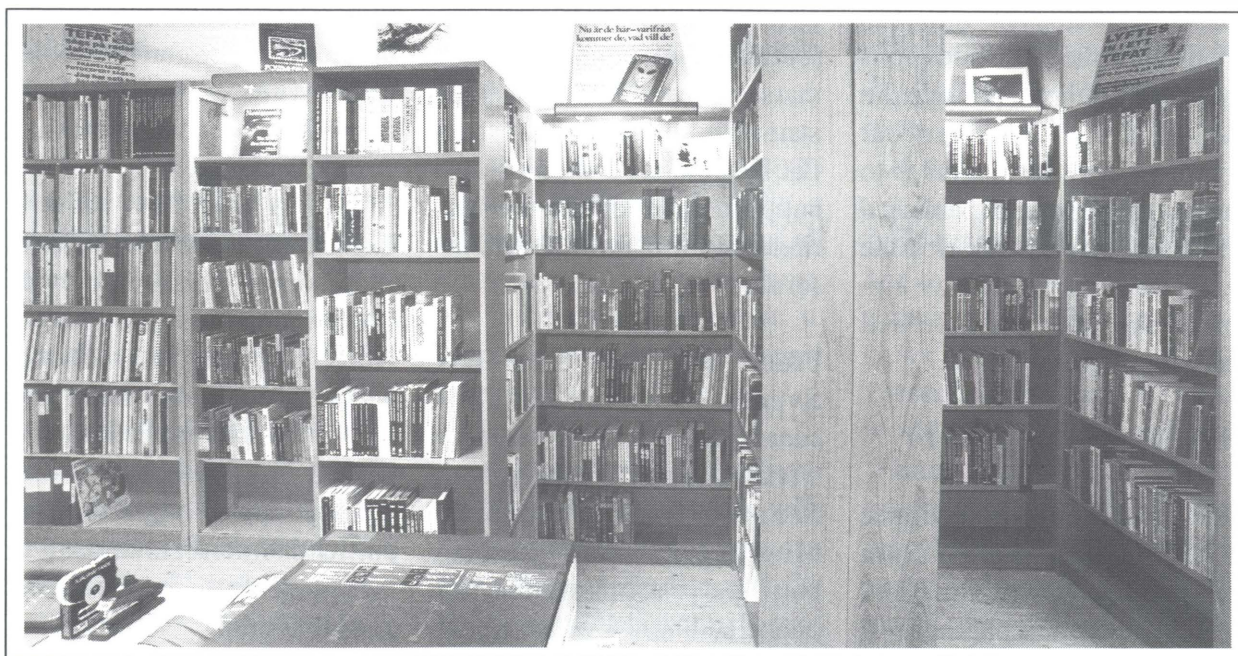
G I C O F F (G o t e b o r g s Informations Center for Oidentifierade Flygande Foremal did you catch that?) was one of the first serious UFO research groups in Sweden. In 1978 GICOFF disbanded after ten years of excellent field investigative work and publication of their magazine GICOFF Information. Many GICOFF investigations were translated and published

in the (British) *Flying Saucer Review*.

In 1981 and 1985, most of the GICOFF files were deposited with AFU, including clippings, report forms, investigative notes, magazines and the GICOFF book library. Later, a lion's part of the GICOFF photo files were also transferred to us.

Yet another rare collection of old UFO books and magazines was deposited by C.O. Holmqvist, in October 1983. This included magazines such as BSRA's *The Round Robin* and *Fate* back to the 1940's and early 1950's. Most books were hardbound and preserved in plastic binders making very good copies for our lending library.

That same year a new specialized UFO classification system was designed for the library collection. Unlike most information retrieval coding schemes Ufocode is based on mnemonic codes and can be detailed down to a fourth level,



Picture 1. Library with conference corner in the foreground. Photo:- Peter Lundstrom.

even providing search codes for well known cases such as the Hill encounter or the Mantell plane crash. In 1983, the 1,163 titles then in our collection were classified according to the new scheme.

Ufocode is still alive and regularly expanded with new codes. Each title added to our library is labeled with from one up to twenty or thirty such codes that describe main themes touched upon in the book. Each year, a supplement of acquired titles is published with an average of 100-150 new titles. The library enjoys regular donations by generous authors such as Loren E. Gross, Thomas E. Bullard and Marc Hallet. If you have spare/review copies of your own published book(s) or booklet(s) please make a donation to the AFU collection knowing that it will be preserved for the future! (In return you will be put on our mailing list, free of charge)

The library has very, very limited resources to buy recently published literature. We are particularly "stocked" on books published in the 1950s and 1960s while "low" on books published in the 1980s and 1990s. One of our grandiose long-term aims is to save two copies of each published edition of every UFO book in the world. Well, as always, we aim for the sky and maybe we will reach the treetops.

Phase three: the age of IT

The mid-1980s started phase three of our history: information technology (IT). In the fall of 1984 a much needed new photocopier was bought. This suddenly made

many previously impossible projects possible. To this day (1995) more than 70.000 copies have been made, as a service to users of the AFU library, and in building our own collection of UFO reporting and mythology.

A year later came our first PC: an IBM-compatible Victor XT. It was used to produce our newsletters, and to build dBase files of reports, references and mailing lists. All of the 1946 ghost rocket cases in Swedish government files - located and first studied in 1984 - formed the basis for the ScanCat report file, which is steadily growing. In 1994 one of our sponsors kindly donated 10,000 SEK for second-hand computers, and as a consequence of this AFU owns no less than five 286 computers (one of them an early laptop), and one 386 Commodore PC.

On the "personnel side" our resources grew, too. In 1984, librarian Hakan Blomqvist moved from the Stockholm area to strengthen our small Norrköping team and Clas Svahn, a young journalist, joined AFU's board that same year. Clas has, since the start of the library in Kjell's small flat, been one of AFU's most avid supporters, and has worked tirelessly to obtain the donations for many of our acquisitions.

From early 1987 Sven-Olov Svensson increased his contribution to AFU by starting to work six hours a day in the archive. Sven-Olov is doing the main part of our routine work: dispatching book parcels, answering the phone, adding new collections to the archives system, and mailing

copies to researchers. His idealistic, unsalaried ground work has, to a large extent, made it possible for many of us to make effective use of the collection and - for my own part - it has meant that my curiosity for the subject has not been completely crushed by the tiring day to day routines necessary at an institution such as ours.

A unique collection

In 1986 Edith Nicolaisen, enthusiastic Swedish publisher of contactee-type and "New Age" literature, died. Nicolaisen had started the Parthenon publishing house in 1957. She published Swedish editions of books by George Adamski, Daniel Fry, Wilbert Smith, Morris K. Jessup, Max Miller, Ray & Rex Stanford, and others.

The Parthenon company was taken over, step by step, by Carl-Anton Mattsson, who kindly arranged for the editorial and personal archives to be deposited with AFU. Parthenon and Edith Nicolaisen left a truly fantastic collection of contactee books, magazines, manuscripts, administrative files, photos and correspondence.

Particularly the correspondence files (some 30 binders) provide many unique insights into the American and international contactee syndrome of the 1950s and 1960s. The collection (now sorted by name of the correspondent) ought to be of particular interest to students of the history of religion, contactees and UFO cults.

The Parthenon collection underlines AFU's policy of saving everything of potential interest without regard of "objective value". It is possible to approach any subject with an open mind and research it, even contactees and cults. Science puts no value on the subject in itself; it only requires you to use scientific methodology. Our collection has been used by a few university graduates, for instance Pia Andersson of Stockholm University who is currently writing a treatise (history of religion) on the Swedish UFO and New Age movement.

Special UFO-Sweden status

In 1986 AFU rejoined UFO-Sweden (- remember, AFU started as a break-away from UFO Sweden in 1973) now becoming the archives unit of the very same national group. It was felt that UFO-Sweden - under new chairmen - had successively changed its ideology to become a more serious, investigative group, much in line with our own ideas. Since 1991 Clas Svahn, from the AFU board, is also the chairman of UFO-Sweden.

Despite close ties to UFO-Sweden, a contract still guarantees the AFU foundation a special status as a separate unit. If UFO-Sweden sinks (not a very realistic thought at this point in time) AFU will sail along on its own. AFU does not need a large membership to survive but does, definitely, benefit from having a 2.000 membership organization (UFO-Sweden) backing us up.

AFU has systematically collected

organizational files from the more than 120 local UFO-Sweden activity groups in existence since 1970. There are also files on every other (known) Swedish UFO/IFO/New Age organization, ufologist, researcher and journalist interested in UFOs. Hakan Blomqvist's work on this aspect of the AFU collection has documented ufology as a social, national "popular movement".

The "Blue" and "Orange" files

In 1987 we started to borrow, and copy, the military UFO records from the Research Institute of National Defence (FOA), in Stockholm. The files contain more than 2,000 reports investigated by the military forces since 1947. The copying project was, in the beginning, an offshot of our Project 1946, the study of documents and reports on the Swedish ghost rockets one year after the end of WWII. Project 1946 was described in detail in two BUFORA monographs published in 1987 and 1988. We are still looking forward to finding the time and resources to publish an English translation of the results from that project.

The copying of military reports inspired us to start, in 1988, a chronological report file of all known Swedish UFO incidents, which by now had grown to become perhaps the most essential part of the archive.

We started off with the military reports copied from FOA, with duplicates and copies from our newsclipping collection, and with the excellent report and investigative files deposited by

GICOFF. In 1989 the annual UFO-Sweden national conference decided to deposit UFO-Sweden's report archive with AFU. We now continuously receive reports from the UFO-Sweden report centre, and it's 70 accredited field investigators. For 1994 alone, these files will number more than 450 cases.

A whole range of other sources (books, magazines, organizational archives, etc.) have since been culled for UFO reports. All cases found have been copied and sorted into the main file, which now comprises more than one hundred binders and (probably) number 10,000 cases. Since the report file is kept in blue file folders we sometimes refer to it as our "Blue Archive" — of course a travesty of "Blue Book". The report file is supplemented by a substantial file of post-war almanacs, directories and a collection of topographical maps that cover about a third of Swedish territory. There is also a substantial file of submarine (USO) press reports and documents, detailing the wave of underwater violations of Scandinavian waters in the last 20-25 years (by some believed to have some connection with UFOs).

AFU (and its predecessors) has had a complete, uninterrupted subscription with a Stockholm news clipping agency (AB Pressurklipp) since 1970. This world unique (?) file (called our "Orange" file since it is kept in orange file folders) has more recently been supplemented with copies and original cuttings from many other private & official collections, to complete our



Picture 2. The summer 1994 ALU staff at AFU entering UFO cases in the ScanCat file. Photograph P Luudstrom

coverage of the 1947-1969 time span. I estimate that the clipping file now contains at least 30,000 articles in Swedish.

Our next project in line will be to copy my own extensive files of 1933-1938 (ghost flier) and 1946 (ghost rocket) reports from Swedish news media and the War Archives. We are also making copies of the official Norwegian files on the ghost fliers located by our friend and correspondent Ole Jonny Braenne (who is establishing a UFO-Norway lending library similar to AFU's). If we can find the necessary money we plan, in 1995, to order complete copies of all the Swedish official military records on the ghost fliers for our files.

Recent acquisitions

In the 1990s Archives for UFO research has grown more than ever. Clas Svahn, Hakan Blomqvist and other supporters have toured Sweden, acquiring

collections, large and small. Some important recent additions include:

- * The Adlerberth collection of books and newsclipping files. Roland Adlerberth, a Gothenburg librarian and translator, bought and reviewed most UFO & fortune books of the fifties and sixties — a mint condition collection now bought and added to AFU in 1993/94. Adlerberth spent his Sundays cutting everything fortune, ufological and phenomenological from Swedish and Scandinavian newspapers. His huge collection of post-war fortune effort (carefully sorted into hundreds of small, brown, subject-labelled envelopes) is now one of our most valued gems, donated by the Adlerberth family. Sends fortune shivers down our spines!

- * The "Brevcirkeln" library. Brevcirkeln (disbanded in 1994) was an esoteric group that existed for 30 years, publishing a lively, duplicated journal. They built a

substantial lending library, similar to AFU's, but more occult-oriented. The collection, parts of which were donated to AFU, includes much of the theosophical and esoteric literature that so influenced early contacteeism and Anglo-American ufology in the 1950s and 60s.

- * Parts of the SUFOI magazine archives. Skandinavisk UFO Information (SUFOI) of Copenhagen (the most respected investigation group in Denmark, founded in the late fifties) recently restructured their magazine archives and asked AFU to take over many of the less needed, odd titles. This resulted in more than 100 kilos of rare and new magazines added to our shelves. Many of the magazines date back to the 1950s.

- * The David Clarke airship collection. In competition with transatlantic collectors AFU in 1993 bought Clarke's 1,300-page collection (four file folders) of data on worldwide (mainly US, UK and New Zealand) airship sightings in the 1896-1913 timespan. Although AFU couldn't offer as much money as US competitors, we could offer a unique public availability of the documents. With no other European bidder David Clarke decided to let the collection remain in Europe. It supplements our documentation on similar waves of what might be termed "technological imitations".

- * The Mandagsgruppen tape collection. The most recent acquisition (December 1994) is a collection of about 500 audiotapes

and cassettes bought from Jan-Eric Janhammar. Janhammar taped a large part of the more than 1,400 lectures before his "Monday group" (Mandagsgruppen), in Stockholm. The tapes include early lectures on flying saucers, for tean subjects and the occult, since the inception of the lecture group in 1951. Our co-worker Lisbeth Rosen is now hard at work making an Excel table to index the tapes.

Phase four: A new, bigger archive

Our rapid growth in recent years made it necessary to find larger quarters than the 38 square meters we had had since 1980. Ideas on how to create more space for shelves had finally exhausted. To work two or three people in-between the tightly-spaced shelves in the "old" archive was an experience that sometimes got on your nerves.

Some 200 metres from the old archives we found our new premises. In early 1993 the place was soon to be evacuated as the former administrative archives of my place of work (a real estate company). The archive had one room full of good, solid shelves. We managed to rent the place at a very decent monthly cost. The 74 square meters were cleaned of spiders and twenty years of dirt (quite a job, I can tell you), painted, and a new floor laid. In late June 1993 we moved most of the collections (by then displaced at three places in Norrköping) to the new place.

Of course, the new center offers a much better working environment than we had before. It has a

conference corner, refrigerator, coffee machine, eight desks for work and/or visiting researchers, five computers, copier, tape recorders, telephone, and - our most recent addition - a fax machine.

Sponsor pool

"Who pays the bills?" you may ask. Some paranoid people believe it's the CIA.

As AFU treasurer for thirteen years I have counted every "krona" that has passed through AFU so I am the person to know the real situation. During the first twenty years our costs were fairly modest and were, mostly, paid for by the four-headed board, from our very own private pockets. The annual turnover has been between 35,000 and 100,000 SEK (1994). My own part of AFU financing, during these years, has been quite substantial. Yes, you guessed it: I own no house, no summer-cottage, no car and no sailing-boat in the nice Swedish archipelago! Life is a choice, and a chance.

With "phase four", and trebled costs, the economic situation would have been impossible. This is where a March 1993 UFO-Sweden conference decided to create a sponsor pool, whereby private citizens and companies, interested in furthering UFO research, can sponsor Archives for UFO research. Today, AFU has signed contracts with some twenty-five ufologists and companies, each contributing between 50 and 500 SEK per month.

The total regular monthly income from sponsors amount to roughly 2,500 SEK, covering the lion's share of our basic expenses (including rent, power, telephone and 30 % of the cost for our clippings subscription, shared with UFO-Sweden). The remaining budget is filled with fees and money from sales (mostly sales of surplus second-hand books and magazines). Picture library sales to media sources may be a promising source of substantial future income.

The creation of the sponsor group also made it possible to retain our "old" archive. The old premises is now used for storage, for seldom-used collections, for audio and video cassettes, for a micro film reader, and, in particular, for our newly established picture library. The old archive was repainted and overhauled in 1994 and we have just arranged three work places there.

The picture library consists of the combined illustrative archives (photos, negatives, slides, sketches, paintings etc.) from the UFO-Sweden, GICOFF and Parthenon collections. A most valuable picture collection was recently donated by the heirs of Eugen Semitjov, a Swedish journalist (of Russian descent) who wrote a series of books on UFO and space research and who travelled the world with his sketch-block and camera.

AFU would welcome monetary and/or material support from international sponsors, which could add much to our efficiency as an already established information center. We would especially like

to engage in IT technology (such as CD-ROM or microfilming techniques to safeguard our collections), the building of indexed databases (why not an international yearly index of the UFO literature?). This would require both technology and skilled personnel. We have the infrastructure but not the money.

Full time "ALU" staff

Working full-time as a "ufologist" is anyone's dream if you're "taken" with this stimulating subject. This has now become possible for some unemployed and UFO-interested Swedes. With the recent high unemployment rate our government started a new scheme in early 1993, called ALU. Unemployed people are offered four to six months period jobs with unions, associations and organizations doing "work that would not normally be done". Salary (= normal unemployment remuneration) is paid by the government.

In March 1993 AFU applied for an ALU project and had no problem getting it. Since then about 15 people have been (or are) active for 4-6 month periods on our project(s). Most of them work/worked in our archives, others with computers (their own, or AFU-owned) at home. This autumn, for instance, we simultaneously had six people employed, five in the archives and one (coding Norwegian reports for our database) in her home.

The ALU staff has worked on different projects: paint work and putting on a floor in the archives; sorting and copying clippings and

other material for the report and clipping files; editorial and translation work; follow-up case investigations via telephone; transcription of cassette tape interviews to paper and data media; creating a database searchable via "ufocodes" for our book library et cetera. Adding UFO cases to our ScanCat database has been the top priority project with nine people employed. As I write this almost all cases for the periods 1946-1952 and 1958-1992 have been recorded, in all some 10,500.

We are now proceeding with the 1952-1957 period and will next work on the years 1933-1938 (ghost fliers) and supplementary coding of all the 1946 cases already on file.

Theoretically, we have projects (and work-places) for many ALU workers. There are lots of well-educated people who are out of work. The problem is merely one of logistics: since we mostly employ "newcomers" to our subject, work has to be organized and closely followed. And we who organize this work have our regular 40-hours-a-week jobs as a first priority.

Grant from the Swedish National Archives

Since the early 1980s AFU has slowly sought an active association with "the archives world at large". AFU is listed in several Swedish archive directories and are establishing contacts with local and national archives, archive unions and archivists. In 1993 Archives for UFO research became a recognized member of both a regional and a national

organization of "popular movement archives" (folkrorelsearkiv). AFU's work in documenting ufology as a fairly young and developing social movement is known and respected by archivists all over Sweden through an article in a recent issue of the specialist archives journal "Tema Arkiv". There is a steady flow of surplus archive material (such as binders and archive boxes) from a local government archive, considerably reducing our costs.

On Oct 25, 1993, "The Board of Private Archives" of the National Archives in Stockholm decided to grant us 6,500 SEK to pay for work materials in our ALU projects, such as audio cassettes, copy paper and envelopes for our picture library. Not a very large sum, but we hope it's a beginning. We will continue to apply for further grants, assisted by a local archives association. Possible objects are: a new copier (for A3 format, with zoom), security measurements (such as an alarm system) and, in a more distant future, compact (rolling) shelves. The micro-filming (or scanning to CD-ROM disks) of irreplaceable parts of our collection is another future project for private or government funding.

Skepticism not popular

Through the years, the AFU team has attempted to guide mainstream ufology (in Sweden) onto more critical, skeptical tracks. This line of thought runs through hundreds of articles written for many publications, particularly for the glossy "UFO-Aktuellt" published by UFO-Sweden. Our

investigative activities-sometimes regarded as “overly skeptical” - has not won admiration by followers of contactee and New Age groups. However, the advantage of having most of the facts literally “behind your back” (in our shelves) can never be underestimated.

In fact, working with AFU sometimes gives you the feeling of suffering from “information sickness” — that you have too much data to make a meaningful picture of reality! That feeling is partly related to the relative lack of time for personal long-term projects (having a regular job being a first priority).

Some figures on the present Archives for UFO research: 150 meters of material, including: books and booklets (40 meters, 2,500 titles, 3,500 book copies), report archives (10 meters, 12,000 cases, primarily Swedish and Scandinavian), clipping files (9 meters, 30,000 articles mainly in Swedish), personal and organizational archives (25 meters), magazine collection (65 meters, 500 boxes), audio cassettes (some 600), videos (a very modest collection, but expanding) and picture library (possibly two thousand pictures).

New donations to the archive often result in duplicate or even triplicate copies. AFU always has a limited supply of surplus books and many, many meters of duplicate magazines available for exchange, or sale. Write us, stating your needs (and exchange objects). Owing to costs for postage, packing and bank exchange we tend to avoid direct sales beyond

the Scandinavian countries.

Prescription for success

AFU has been a fairly successful undertaking and we feel we are doing something that will be of potential future value to the study of UFOs (or folklore, or psychology, or). I believe ufologists in many countries should consider establishing similar local or regional UFO repositories. Preserving the history of UFO research can never be a waste of time and will be an activity respected even by academia. We would very much like to see our idea transform into a chain of archives and info centers. We hear of similar initiatives in France, in Norway, and in the US. Here are a few guide-lines which I feel may be important:

1. Establish a small group of dedicated people with the same ideas who are willing to share and the responsibilities for the archive. You can't do it on your own! See to it that the idea does not die if and when your own interests change.

2. Establish the collection in a locality of its own, in a major town, where several people pay for the costs and have mutual access with their own keys. Except maybe for the first years, don't house the collection in your own living room where no one else has access to it! Surplus keys should be available for visiting researchers.

3. Establish the archive as a self-owning institution (foundation) free from too close ties with any other organization, but try to co-operate

with as many people as possible.

4. Establish a sponsorship system where the success of the archive does not primarily rely on the usual membership-magazine circuit. If you want a well ordered collection you don't have the time to run a membership organization or edit a monthly (or even a quarterly) magazine! You must specialize to achieve results.

5. Establish active contacts with well known archive and academic institutions. Strive to become a serious and recognized institution to which students and researchers at high schools and universities can turn for good source material as they write serious papers.

6. Important! Keep a relatively “low” profile, especially towards the local media. The advantage of this is that you will give little away to people who are only “passing thru” our subject, people whose interest soon varies or passes into other areas. Focus on few, but serious, people.

7. A simple copier is a minimum requirement at any archive. With a copier much of your material never has to leave the house - and so you minimize losses.

You can support AFU by becoming a sponsor, by sending a copy of your authored book, or by exchanging your magazine with our AFU Newsletter (at present one issue per year).

Archives for UFO research would be interested in any UFO-related collection, anywhere in the world, that anyone would like to donate to, or deposit with, us for future

preservation. Our resources for commercial deals are almost non-existent but, in some cases, we would be willing to reimburse postage or transportation.

If you want to consult our collection please write us or phone. You can also book a time for a visit to Norrköping. There are five daily SAS flights to Norrköping via Copenhagen. Archives for UFO research can be contacted by writing: P.O.Box 11027, S-600 11 Norrköping, Sweden. Our phone is +46 11 13 86 66. If no answer please phone our home number +46 11 16 77 84 (Anders Liljegren), +46 11 13 75 90 (Håkan Blomqvist) or +46 8 89 20 53 (Clas Svahn).

Ufocode book classification system

- A. Ancient cultures, myths, "astro archeology"
- B. Behavioural & social sciences (psychology, etc.)
- C. Contacts & communication with aliens, abductions
- D. Design, propulsion, technical theories, new energies
- F. Fortean phenomena
- G. General aspects of UFOs, UFO case categories
- H. Historical sightings & waves of sightings before 1946
- L. Literature & library, fiction literature
- N. Natural sciences & natural explanations for reports
- O. Official policies & investigations, opinion & media
- P. Parapsychology, paranormal aspects, occultism
- R. Religion, religious & philosophical aspects, cults
- S. Science, scientists &

philosophy of science

T. Theories on origin & intent of UFOs

U. Ufology, UFO research community, methodology

Reviews

Book Reviews

Reuben Stone, *UFO Investigation* (Blitz).

On the face of it this didn't look too promising. Clearly tailor made for the remainder shops. A slim large volume hardback full of the kind of pictures that suggest a dated look at UFOlogy. Hell, The Aetherius Society actually provided a photograph of one of their model spacecraft. Well, if this was going to tell me that everyone who claimed a contact forty years ago was telling me the truth at least I'd only have about eighty pages to suffer.

Luckily nobody seems to have told Reuben Stone too much about the pictures. His text covers the history of UFOlogy in a balanced and accessible way. The old chestnuts are roasted one more time but Reuben Stone has done his homework and the important angles are presented in a crisp and thorough way. The book doesn't have a lot to tell experienced UFO buffs but it does pack the odd obscure name and if you're unfamiliar with Bill Bequette and his seminal place in the history of the greatest mystery of the century then Reuben Stone still has something to teach you.

The greatest use I can see for this tome is to deal with the age old enquiry from an interested but tightfisted friend. You know the one that starts: 'Is there anything I could read just to give me an idea about this UFO stuff?'

My guess is that Reuben Stone has heard that one so many times he decided to write the definitive work to deal with the question.

N Nixon

Jimmy Goddard, *Earth people Space People*.

The aims here are truly laudable, this book is part of an on-going project that should eventually result in an exhibition of UFO related items. The group behind it the Star Fellowship are committed to raising their public profile and putting over their message.

The message here is the old fashioned contactee variety. With Alan Watts' *'UFO Quest'* still on the shelves we've got a mini wave of Adamski style UFOlogy upon us. *Earth People Space People* is an engaging run through the history of contactees. There's not a grey in sight and no truck with trendy earthlight and psychological ideas. It's doubtful that it will find much acceptance as an argument in the present climate. However, as a straightforward run through the major points of a lingering area of belief it is timely. It is also and a lot more accessible than discussions of the same material in other books which are invariably giving such accounts their own particular angle.

(continued on page 18)

WHY TODMORDEN?

Focus on the Rossendale Valley as an area with a high incidence of UFO/ anomalous events

by Anne Silk

Anne Silk is a consultant optician and clinical researcher, and a member of several learned societies.

"Nature's problems have all been solved: we only have to be clever enough to be able to unravel the answers."

Sir Eric Laithwaite, 1987

"How hard it is to hide the sparks of nature" -Belarius in Shakespeare's Cymbeline III.

For decades the UFOs, ghosts, "abductions", mystery helicopters and other phenomena in this area have puzzled researchers. Why Todmorden? Why Rossendale? What is so different about these areas that makes them prone to anomalies generally?

As with most current research, it is necessary to weave together the many strands in the scientific literature to see how the many factors all interlock to produce an answer. We must consider geology (in particular seismology), neurology, the electromagnetic frequencies of non-ionising radiation which are generated naturally by the Earth, as well as man-made fields of radio-frequency (RF), plus electrical

fields, and look at how and where they intermingle as intermodulation effects.

These intermodulations, where two or more field types (the DC of the Earth and the AC of artificial RF fields) mix and match and interact, produce spectacular effects in the atmosphere and in the human brain.

Jenny Randles in *The Pennine UFO Mystery* (Granada 1983) states: "There are very few earthquakes in this country..." (p.228).

But is she correct? Well, it all depends on what you mean by an earthquake, and if one is referring to one of the vast energetic works of nature such as those of Kobe, Japan or California, then she is. But from the point of view of the British Geological Survey, who publish an annual listing of all UK earthquakes, she is not correct. Those listed in the 1987 UK Bulletin of British Earthquakes vary in magnitude (or intensity) from less than 1.0 to on the Richter scale.

Randles makes two very interesting statements in her book. She says, of the high incidence of UFO related events (URE):

"There is something physical that is responsible..." (p.136)

Indeed there is, and that something is very high amplitude electromagnetic fields from many sources which combine at specific points in the area to trigger environmental, systemic and consciousness effects in the population.

And again, when referring to witnesses involved in UFO encounters in the area, Randles tells us: "They do not know about the reservoir connections, or circle of light UFOs, or correlations with sunspot activity."

She points straight to seismic and electronic intermodulation effects. We hear a great deal these days about "Earth energies" (perhaps not too well-defined), but in fact they do indeed exist, and when produced by deep movements in the crust or by massive sliding of strata against their interfaces at fault lines, a great deal of intense EM fields are created by piezoelectric and piezomagnetic processes, which are detected by the instrumentation of seismologists. Let us now look at how and why this energy is released, as it has significant effects for both the area of Todmorden and its inhabitants.

QUARRIES AND RESERVOIRS

For decades UFO investigators have noticed that areas in which there is a high incidence of what has come to be called the orange ball-of-light phenomenon, also have a high incidence of quarries and reservoirs. These free-floating

centres of luminous electromagnetic energy, produce physical and physiological effects on the environment and those who get close to them (more of this later). It has been shown by Paul Devereux through his research (*Earthlights* <1982> and *Earthlight Revelation* <1989>) that these are produced through geoelectrical and geomagnetic energies at the great cracks in the Earth's crust known as fault lines.

It is these vast underground rock interfaces which produce intense pressures, high electromagnetic fields and accompanying light phenomena by their subterranean movements. Such tectonic activity as it is known, is accelerated however, by man-made alterations to the landscape, in the form of quarries and reservoirs. How does this occur? Why should these relatively recent changes at the surface induce this tectonic activity? If one realises that when the strata is broken on such a grand scale by internal pressures to form a fault line, the weight either side of the fault reaches a state of equilibrium far back in geological time-millions of years ago-in, say, the Devonian or Cambrian periods. Each mass of rock either side of the fault has taken millions of years to settle into a stable resting position. Then, very recently, man comes along and dams up a great area on the surface to form a reservoir on one side of the fault line.

Meanwhile, on the other side, over a few decades he removes vast quantities of rock through quarrying, and transports it to distant locations for use in

buildings or roads etc. Therefore, one side of the fault (relatively) suddenly has to bear the vast weight of thousands of gallons of water, amounting to thousands of tons, whereas the other is gradually relieved of weight. This dual activity of the formation of reservoirs and the excavation of quarries therefore destabilizes the equilibrium established long ago.

There occurs subsidence on one side, and uplift on the other, and tectonic activity occurs, thereby producing the orange ball-of-light phenomenon or earthlights, as they are known.

RESERVOIRS AND HEAVY RAINS

In 1991, there were very heavy rains in SW Scotland and the authorities were considering evacuating people from the Leadhills area. This was because the rain had soaked into the old mine shafts and millions of tons of water were putting pressure on the hillsides and landslides were feared.

It is now known that artificial damming of lakes etc. and the vast water pressures that will build up on the now sunken land behind can reactivate old, long dormant faults, as has occurred in the Todmorden area.

EARTH AND ITS STRESSES

Imagine a recalcitrant screwtop jar. You have tried to twist it by hand, using more and more wrist pressure, and expending terrific energy, but the top does not move. Such is the situation on a vastly more massive scale in earthquake

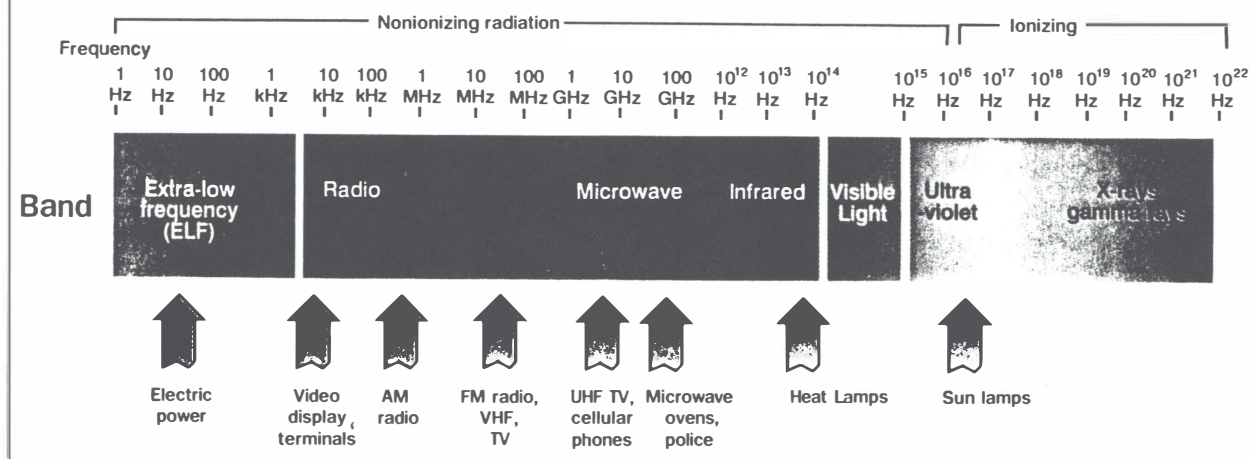
precursor movements. Massive energies are emitted along the weakest paths to the surface along rock/clay junctions, faults, ore veins, mineral lodes etc. The earth from deep below needs to move, to dissipate its energy, to release stresses. In doing this it will generate photons (lights, columns, flashes) ELF fields, radio waves and microwaves.

On June 8th 1994 in Bolivia, an 8.2 magnitude quake erupted at a depth of 840 kms below ground. It is interesting that the Bolivian quake (Science 264:559) caused the earth to ring like a bell. Every twenty minutes the entire planet expanded and contracted by a minute but detectable amount. The energies emitted are measurable and fit into the normal frequency registers of non-ionising radiations, from ELF, radio frequencies, microwaves and more rarely into the visible part of the spectrum.

CHART OF FREQUENCIES

These frequency bands are known in neurology to have not only the capability of triggering epileptic attacks in some. But in addition, the subclinical electro-syndromes. To take two well-known examples: If the temporal area of the head is subjected to milligauss intensity ELF magnetic fields (Persinger) the person will feel a "sense of presence" as if someone is there although there is nothing visible. At some frequencies, the individual will feel a vast upsurge of love and contentment-"all's well with the world", but if the head is in an energy field in the UHF area, nausea and headache will rapidly result. "Missing time"

Humans are exposed to broad range of electromagnetic frequencies both seismic and man-made



is associated with temporal stimulation, and indeed people viewing a subject who is later reported to be experiencing some of these strange effects will report that they were sitting or lying still and oblivious to their surroundings.

The "great works of Nature" have been present since time immemorial, and it is a fact that countries which are highly faulted and subject to earthquakes have for millenia produced folklore and myths intimately linking the gods with movement in the heavens and of the earth e.g. Greece, Egypt, Iceland, New Zealand. However, we are not looking at these but, instead the far smaller movements and tremors where the earth is subject to strain, pressures, lifts, thrusts, dips, folds etc. These, whilst not dramatic, have greater effects on the human brain and system.

Before we look at the human effects, well reported by Randles, let us look at what the Ordnance Survey map of the area shows us. In the area of 25 square kilometers there are 13 reservoirs, many built since the 1950s; 6 radio, TV and

microwave transmitters; over 40 radio hams; faults along the Irwell Valley; and the deep Craven block fault.

Thus the stage is set for the intermodulation of energies from natural and artificial sources. This occurs when one signal or field is modulated by another frequency rather like the way FM (frequency modulation) broadcasts. We know that seismic waves travel in several directions, but here we are also concerned with radio frequency waves which skip along as ground waves. Incidentally, the relevance of these to mysterious "steps in the snow" at Glen Lyon in 1840, Devon in 1855, New Jersey in 1909 and Albuquerque(USA) in 1985 is to be the subject of a later paper.

OUTGASSING

When movements occur deep within the earth, gas will also be extruded and, just like mineral or spring water, will take the easiest route to the surface. Gas is usually an electrical insulator but, if it is ionised, whether by lightning or other activity, it then becomes electrically conductive.

Amongst earth gases are methane, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen, helium hydrogen sulphide and, in minerals and meteorites, xenon; also there are many other trace gases.

ROSSENDALE ANTICLINE

An anticline, in geological terms, is an area of upfolding, where stresses are pushing strata together, so that in time will fault or crack in linear fashion. A syncline, on the other hand, results when strata are pushed and a downward fold results, which also, in time, faults. So at both types of site, enormous energies are potentially present which twist and distort at the surface of the local area.

Rossendale itself is on an anticline, and in the Rossendale Hills the rock is a flaggy sandstone consisting of very small grains of quartz or quartzite. Quartz itself has some very unusual properties. It is double refracting (bi-refracting and this effect is seven times stronger than the bi-refracting) of ice. It can have left or right-handed activity (the helical arrangements of the molecular

structure in the mineral). The slopes near Todmorden are landslipped-an indication of seismic activity. In the deep cloughs below the scarps at Todmorden, Keighley and Hebden Bridge, there is a long band of shale(shales indicate oil-bearing strata) on a 450 foot thick band of sandstone. In fact, there have been oil explorations at some sites(implications for hot spots?). Sandstone, it should be noted, is highly permeable to water, and thus will fracture easily in frost, and this will act as antennae for signals when cracks fill with prism-like sheets of ice.

Peter Underwood, in *The Ghost Hunter's Guide* reports that at Brungerley and Clitheroe, there are manifestations of phenomena every seven years. Also, at Hall in the Wood at Bolton the activity is getting stronger every year. Clitheroe is on an anticline and Bolton on a deep block fault.

Major faults in the area trend NW and NNW and are developed in two main belts through Manchester and Wigan, and along the Irwell Valley, with the Rossendale Faults running through Todmorden.

BALLS OF LIGHT(BOL)

This strange phenomenon is well reported in the Rossendale area, so it is particularly interesting to learn of the work of Professor Harley Rutledge, quoted in *Frontiers of Reality* by Hilary Evans. He observed balls of light at Piedmont in the New Madrid earthquake area in Missouri.

At a distance of 3 km, he said that they seem to be "aware"

EXTRACT FROM THE BULLETIN OF BRITISH EARTHQUAKES 1989 FROM BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

Location.	Date.	Magnitude.	Depth.
Skipton.	07.06.89.	1.4	0.2
Wetherby.	10.02.89.	1.2	9.8
Gt.Manchester.	07.01.89.	1.2	10.0
Bolton.	11.03.89.	1.7	2.5
Prestwich.	20.09.89.	1.5	0.2 (coalfield type)
Warrington.	01.12.89.	1.2	0.2 (" ")
"	13.12.89	1.6	0.1 (" ")
"	17.11.89	1.6	0.1 (" ")
"	12.11.89	1.4	0.3 (" ")

of the observer. It is relevant to note that 3 km is in low frequency bands i.e. KHz. Near Piedmont is Iron County, and in it is Iron Mountain. Lightning has an affinity for ironstone (Schonfeld 1964) and certainly in the south of England UFO haunted Warminster, Westbury and Edgehill are all on ironstone bands. It is significant, therefore, that the Lancashire coalfields contain clay-ironstone bands, near the coal outcrop areas.

LIGHTNING-THE LONG TERM EFFECTS

Both Persinger and Budden have reported the significance of early major electrical events to psychic persons and abductees. We may ask why, so many years after being struck by lightning or given a subclinical electrical shock by one means or another, should an individual be affected in this way. The answer is in the fact that when electrical current enters the body, it will flow along the blood vessels, nerves and the pathway of the cerebrospinal fluid. The brain stem is the hardest hit due to the fact that the CNS is confined

to one narrow pathway in that area of the body. Lightning will widen the space between blood and brain cells, i.e. they are forced apart and the integrity of the normally impervious blood/brain barrier will be breached (see Dr C.Andrews, University of Queensland, Australia, reported in *New Scientist* 18.12.93).

Due to vastly improved seismic recording facilities and an increase in the number of stations, over 400 UK earthquakes were recorded in 1991/2, the largest at Peterborough measuring 3.4 on February 17th, 1992. Seismic events include sonic booms, coalfield settling and North Sea oil events. Ironically, Stoneyhurst College was a seismic station for many years, but in 1992 the British Geological Survey reported that despite searches as far away as the Vatican, it appears that all records were destroyed after 1947. Near the area considered here, in Oakenclough, Lancs, on November 8th 1991, an earthquake of 2.7 magnitude was recorded. The felt areas, where people report effects(see Mercalli Scale) can

be as wide as 60 x 70 km around the epicentre.

**SOURCES OF FIELDS:
ELF AND RADIO
FREQUENCY:
ARTIFICIAL AND
SEISMIC.**

NATURAL

1.Faults: thrusts, transverse, slip, vertical, oblique.

2.Earthquake and precursors (ELF)

3.Underground streams conduct piezoelectric energies from faulted areas and irradiate locations at the surface. Many "haunted" houses are over underground water.

4.Lightning, which may be vertical to earth or upwardly directed. Can tear off shoes and clothes, burn hair, shock, kill and cause tanned appearance; in extreme cases it can induce leathery skin with exit wound which resembles bullet trauma.

5.Radio frequency seismic energy - this will cause RF interference and anomalous transmissions.

6.Microwave (coherent signal). Can burn and cause circular and deep burns in humans, animals and objects.

7.Electric fields (current flowing) when soil resistivity affected; strong over ore bodies and mineral veins. Soil resistivity varies.

8.Ball lightning:

Physicists have produced plasma discharges (ionised gas) with identical behaviour to that

of natural ball lightning. Such balls can be white, blue, red, orange and have the ability to float through panes of glass, aircraft bodies and ceramic panels 3mm thick (*Nature* 350:139).

The phenomenon is produced by pulsed interference effects between radio waves. When we remember that the earth itself generates radio waves, as do most bodies in the solar system, we should not be surprised at the thousands of reports from people world-wide. Ball lightning may be as small as a pea or as large as a house (Corliss 1986).

9.Earthlights and earthquake lights:

Earthlights take many forms and have been reported and observed by man since time immemorial. Dr Altschuler at the University of Colorado has produced this listing:

- a) indefinite instantaneous illumination.
- b) lightning.
- c) sparks of light.
- d) fireballs.
- e) vertical columns of fire.
- f) beams of fire and light.
- g) flames and sparks of many types.
- h) luminous vapour.

The serious researcher is recommended to obtain the *Handbook of Unusual Natural Phenomena* by William Corliss in which several hundreds of reports from mainstream literature are given.

ARTIFICIAL

1.TV and radio transmissions

from high points and towers; radio hams at domestic sites.

2.Microwaves communication systems: civil, military, police, fire, radio hams etc.

3.Quarrying: release of natural tension when rock is removed from earth which can cause microseisms; explosions from rock blasting.

4.Reservoirs: immense pressure of water due to weight can generate earthquakes, tremors and activate dormant faults. NB. Rossendale-Todmorden has reservoirs.

5.Tunnels, wells, chimneys will act as waveguides and produce sonic phenomena when free energy is present.

Where towers, high buildings, gasometers etc are in the path of a transmitted RF beam there will be complex reflected lobes of EM fields present. If surfaces are concave, there will be intense sharp focussing of energy.

6.Electroforms (Budden) electric fireballs and other anomalous light phenomena produced as an accidental side-effect of electromagnetic pollution.

Should we redefine the term UFO as "Unknown Frequencies Overhead"? This would provide a strong link between the physics of radiated energies (whether man-made, solar or seismic) and the known systemic effects of exposure to these energies.

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(continued from page 12)

You won't find this one in the shops and so if you want a copy it will cost £2 plus 40p post and packing payable to Jimmy Goddard, 25 Albert Road, Addlestone. Surrey KT15 2PX.

Alan Watts, *UFO Quest*. (Blandford, £7.99).

The flying saucers are there from the start and the mother ships get their own chapter, dealing exclusively with their appearance over Essex. The term 'UFO' only comes into it's own towards the middle of this book and by that time you should be in no doubt that you're in the land of intergalactic space ships and intelligent entities buzzing, observing and occasionally landing for a chat

with George Adamski.

These are bizarre enough notions for 1994 but the combination of these ideas with recent, current and future science makes for the most explosive combination since Lulu got back in the gym and back on stage with Take That!

Okay, I'm not taking this seriously enough and there are some impressive aspects to 'UFO Quest'. This is a well argued, well planned and sincere attempt to reclaim UFOlogy for the belief systems of the fifties and sixties. When the arguments supporting this view of the UFO world wander into speculation Watts is honest enough to concede the point.

He's also extremely good at explaining the kind of scientific principles that drive school kids away from the subject in droves. On this final point alone the book has a good deal to offer people who may find the underlying view of UFOs hard to take.

A glance at the chapter headings and illustrations was enough to worry me but by the time I put the book down for the last time I found myself wishing it had been longer.

N Nixon

Jenny Randles, *Star Children* (Hale, £14.99)

The release of this book around Christmas seemed timely. The press en masse are busy listing achievements in the arts at this time and it struck me that Jenny Randles, contribution to UFOlogy deserves to be valued in the way that we value the work of Jack Nicholson or Neil Young. Rather like these crusty

old buzzards of the arts Randles is capable of re-interpreting, re-inventing and innovating in a way that makes every new project interesting and suggests progress towards some eventual destination, even if she herself doesn't feel that way the whole time. The most recent *Northern UFO News* editorial was honest about her present writing policy which slips populist works in amongst the significant tomes. This was a needlessly modest write up from Randles because it belittles the quality she is able to instil into all of her work. When we get to the major works the quality of research, planning and thoroughness is always evident and *Star Children* is a brave attempt to push back the frontiers of knowledge on the subject that bit further.

I'll bury the artistic comparisons after this but bringing back Jack and Neil for a moment we could say that *Star Children* is a Batman or Rust Never Sleeps. In other words it is a work that courted disaster in conception by clearly containing the potential to shred a lofty reputation but emerges as a triumph precisely because Randles has reached inside herself to produce something of genuine substance, *Star Children* takes on the abduction experience from the inside. It is honest and courageous. The possibility for the shredding of a reputation arrives in the opening chapter which tells us that Jenny Randles herself has had experiences that fall firmly into the abductee category.

From this point on the book explores the area around the abduction experience involving (continued on page 23)

Minutes of the first Meeting of the Editorial Board of The New UFOlogist

Held at the Friends Meeting House, Bull Street, Birmingham on Saturday, 19th November 1994

15 people attended from as far afield as Scotland. Apologies for received from a further 7 people who had expressed an interest in The New UFOlogist.

1) Aims and Objectives of The New UFOlogist

Many issues were debated in a wide-ranging discussion. There was general agreement that the magazine should be serious, scientific and a-political. Any profit will be ploughed back into the subject, not used for other purposes. The magazine will be UK-biased but will not become parochial, contributions from overseas will be welcome and canvassed - notably from Europe to reflect the problems that UFOlogists have in reading multi-lingual European data. The magazine is intended to be a magazine first and foremost, there is no intention to duplicate existing groups or investigation networks. The magazine should become a vehicle for proper scientific debate about UFO issues.

2) Publication Standards

It was agreed that the magazine

should be divided into sectors and that there should be a balanced use of satire and humour. It was agreed not to split articles across two or more issues as this meant that articles were too long. Joe Dormer suggested that one standard for accepting articles for publication should be that contributors should use primary sources, where possible, rather than merely quote other researchers' material. Jenny Randles suggested that case reports should be acceptable for publication only if the investigators had done all the work that was usually required. She emphasised that the criteria for acceptance should not relate to any personal bias about the author's conclusions. Paul Fuller suggested that the magazine should appear at least three times a year, but that quality was more important than quantity. Joe Dormer stated that he was more interested in reading research articles than UFO case after UFO case. It was anticipated that there will be 500 copies of issue 2 and that ultimately this would increase to over 2,000.

At this point in the meeting it was decided that as the New

UFOlogist was different everyone present would sit in a circle and not act as if this was a meeting where 'editors' addressed 'members'. It was suggested that asking £2.50 for the first issue was too much and that £2.00 was more appropriate. There was mutual support for this view. It was agreed that the figure should be retained for cover price shop sales but that this allowed discounts to readers who took out a proper subscription (currently £8 for 4 issues - ie £2 per issue).

3) Critical Review of First Issue

There was an extensive discussion of the only critical review of the first issue. This had been in "*Promises and Disappointments*", a magazine edited by Kevin McClure. The review stated

"[The first issue] promised a lot but, sadly, I was disappointed. The potential's all there, but it looks as drab as '*UFO Times*', and it lacks both edges and authority. These are personal preferences, but I don't want to read Paul Devereux praising the work of Terence McKenna, who recommends the use of hallucinogenic drugs as a method of "meeting with the alien" or any more implausible Earth Light theories. I detest animal mutilation, and can't think why we report on it. I don't need an extended apology for the time wasted on hoaxed crop circles over the past 4 years or so and, being interested in ufology, I don't care much about whirlwinds. Nor do IFO reports achieve very much. These are personal opinions, but this issue

looks like a wasted opportunity. I hope that the good, incisive minds involved will, in future issues, feel safe to say what they really think. We need a journal at the leading edge, not in the safe middle ground. Something that will take thinking and understanding forward, impact on the subject world-wide, and lead us on and away from Roswell, Hopkins, Persinger and Moulton Howe. It can be done - the possibilities are endless. Do give them your support."

These were accepted as valid criticisms and that in future we must be at the cutting edge of UFOlogy if we are to make progress. It was also decided that Kevin McClure be invited to write an article enlarging on his criticisms and his vision for the future of the magazine. Jenny Randles suggested that Rodney Howarth's original suggestion that the magazine should have a 2 or 3 colour front cover, which would improve the look of the magazine, as well as its marketability. This is expected to cost between £40 and £50 more per print run.

Eric Morris and Joe Dormer both suggested that the magazine would benefit from publishing a series of in depth UFO case reports which had been written by the original investigator. Paul Fuller suggested that cases should only be published when they teach us something new about the phenomenon. Jenny Randles suggested that cases could include references as long as there were not pages and pages of references. Also that short summaries of cases should in future focus only on meaningful data - not every

Light-in-the-Sky - although this could include resolved sightings if the IFO investigation was illuminating to UFO researchers.

4) Sub Editors and Correspondents

There was a prolonged discussion over the benefits of and the need for having sub editors and academic referees. It was decided that The New UFOlogist will be similar to the *Journal of UFO Studies*, a CUFOS publication in the USA. Sub Editors will be referred to as Correspondents. Each Correspondent will be responsible for a particular part of the magazine, eg there would be a Correspondent responsible for the correspondence page, a Correspondent responsible for overseas reports (maximum one page per country), a Correspondent responsible for UK reports. Referees can be anonymous if desired but Correspondents will be identified to readers.

Correspondents will not be required to submit articles or edit articles for every issue. However, when articles are submitted for publication the relevant Correspondent should immediately write to thank the author(s) for their submission and to describe the editorial process. All articles submitted for publication will be circulated to the Editorial Board prior to the next editorial meeting. When articles are rejected the relevant Correspondent must write to the author(s) explaining the reason(s) why their article has not been accepted for publication. Joe Dormer kindly offered to copy edit future issues.

Correspondents will be responsible for translating (or getting translated) articles not written in English and for ensuring that final proofs are available on disk for whoever is responsible for producing the master copies for printing. Joe Dormer offered to translate articles written in Spanish and French into excellent English. It was decided to canvass for articles in future issues.

5) Artwork and Illustrations

David Taylor kindly offered to do artwork and illustrations. It was also agreed to bring a suitable supply of fliers and letterheads to all editorial board meetings. There was general agreement to circulate fliers to as many interested groups as possible, offering a free advertisement in The NEW UFOlogist in return. An appeal would be made via the UFO literature for regional 'sales representatives' to market copies to selected public outlets - eg specialist booksellers and high street stores with strong UFO sales counters.

6) Research Projects

The magazine is non profit-making. However, if and when profits are made then these should be declared in the magazine and made available to UFO research generally. Anyone can apply for a grant from The NEW UFOlogist. If their application is successful then the New UFOlogist will have first right to any written summary of the project. Thereafter the researchers have the right to publish their work at will. Eric Morris noted that this kind of funding works very well for one of his local ghost clubs.

7) Issue 3

It is hoped that issue 3 will be ready in draft for the next meeting (March/April 1995). There will be a February deadline for articles. We will canvass the views and opinions of the readership as to how the magazine should develop.

8) Future Meetings

It was agreed to rotate Editorial Board meetings between Manchester, Birmingham and London. Ray Cox pointed out that the Friends Meeting House offered a 10 per cent discount when groups met there for four times a year or more, but regional spread to allow maximum attendance was felt essential. Jenny Randles suggested that we should not neglect Scotland and consider meeting in Glasgow or Edinburgh from time to time !

9) Case Reports

Eric and Linda Morris described their work with an abductee. Margaret Fry described a photographic case from North Wales. It is hoped that future meetings will allow a longer period at the end of meetings to discuss new case material.

[REDACTED]

The following letter was received from Kevin McClure.

The first point seems to be to work out what audience you're targeting, how you want to market the title, and what sort of presentation is appropriate. In this, comparisons with Quest's efforts are useful. It's gone for news-stands, for

pulling people by the title and the cover, for lowest common denominator content of dubious value, and is clearly designed to carry merchandising to support publishing costs. It looks quite like *UFO Universe* et al, and reads like it, too. I can see no point in making NU into an entry-level UFO magazine, trying to explain basics: I doubt it would be financially viable on that basis.

The *Journal of UFO Studies* - perhaps with elements from IUR and BAE - seems a much better content model for NU, and it is more realistic to sell to a high proportion of informed ufologists (7-800 at best?) than a tiny percentage of an uninformed public. If you're looking to influence thought and people, I'd go for the *JUFOS* model every time, buying the best presentation you can for what can be afforded. I thought the paper and layout of the cover of No. 2 was more than acceptable.

Quite distinguished, really.

On that basis, establishing status and reputation seems to be vital. Your Correspondents arrangement seems to create a structure for this, but standards will have to be high, and a level of quality control that some may perceive as unacceptable may need to be in place. Overstatements on the cover won't help ("crucial new research", "a new close encounter case"), but article content is the key. Good cases are essential. Yes, preferably written by investigators, or written with help or strongly edited if writing is difficult. For cases, I'd suggest aiming at :-

* unknowns/unidentifieds that have survived good

investigation

* preferably if they add to the authority of the subject and the magazine

* preferably if they break, or establish new ground

Examples of good, positive contributions to date include the Roswell material in No. 2 - the right people, dealing authoritatively with a subject of broad interest in the field, coming to well-supported conclusions - Neil Nixon's well argued piece, and most of the cases. Presenting European material is a good idea in a field dominated by the US. There's little wrong with the Crop Circles article in No. 1, but it's not about UFOs.

The points I made in my review, I'd stand by. I suspect that there may be more specific, factual flaws in Albert Budden's material than is apparent at this stage, but both published cases - the 'animal mutilation' and the 'Stonehenge' case - have problems that could have been challenged in the editorial process, and hence avoided. The 'mutilation' near Bratton is apparently based on a non-expert report, uninvestigated by Albert Budden himself, but he concludes that, 'A lightning strike on the animal at the summit had thrown up a number of small ball-lightning centres which had then expended their electro-thermal energies to earth through the horse as described, cauterising off the ear and sex organ.' ... 'Its sex organ was cleanly removed, along with its left ear.' I do not think any such event has ever been recorded. There is no logic, let alone science, involved

in this statement. I'm not overly familiar with the male sex organs of horses, but that an entire set - and an ear - could be 'cauterised off' by ball lightning coming out of the body is beyond imagining. Mind you, I'm walking up no hills in dodgy weather in the foreseeable future !

The 'Stonehenge' case - involving incongruent witness evidence, an amazing lack of perception of a 10-foot wide orange light hovering 60-foot overhead, and no suggestion of a manned aerial craft - similarly beggars belief. Just to mention two specifics, Albert Budden refers to Radio Frequency transmitters in a 25-mile radius from Stonehenge - yet of well over 150,000 people in that area, only 'his' witnesses - with their very different perceptions - reported any experience. And it seems that the 'huge orange ball of light', 10 feet across, lasted for well over half an hour, travelling with the car from Stonehenge to the motorway to London: by whichever route was chosen, over 30 miles according to my road map.

I know of no ball lightning/earthlight case that even begins to relate to those parameters of size or duration, let alone apparent purposiveness. What were the good people of Amesbury, and Andover, or Marlborough, or Hungerford, or Newbury doing that night ? Why did they see nothing ? Report nothing ? I don't know who conducted this investigation, but the 'concluding banana' does nothing to drive the word 'hoax' from my mind. The case certainly does nothing for the magazine's credibility. I realise

that there is a point of view that says that any theory is worth publishing, on the basis that it is testable and falsifiable. However, you could publish a flat earth theory, or Hoerbiger's 'World Ice' theory on that basis, but it would still be rubbish, and its publication would only damage the magazine.

Speaking of damage, I think that if you're going for reputation and respectability, then condoning, let alone supporting the use of (almost inevitably) illegal hallucinogens to 'meet with the alien' is highly dangerous. All your efforts could be ruined by one press report. Worse could result from just one individual justifying a single irrational act - perhaps in a court, or in the media - by reference to very specific information given in The New UFOlogist, No. 1. My own view is that a public stand should be taken, equally, against the use of regression hypnosis, and against the suggestion that chemically-induced ASCs have any relevance to understanding whatever UFO mystery there is. 'Looking for the Alien' is becoming a very serious issue: as with any other area of life, I'd recommend full consciousness as the best basis for accurate perception.

I think you've probably put screening procedures for avoiding both nonsense and dangerous nonsense in place, "All articles submitted for publication will be submitted to the Editorial Board prior to the next editorial meeting", but it'll take some nettle-grasping. I know that I've published some twaddle in the past, and I'm not proud of a piece by a practising black magician that I let through. You may have greater

safety in numbers, but then, committees are not always the best enforcers of standards !

So, what about my 'vision of the future of the magazine' with regard to content ? Case reports, analysis of UFO-related news and news events, foreign material, responses to specifics (like the GAO report) should underpin every issue. That seems to be what current UFOlogy is about, and it should appeal to people. But the 'cutting edge' role also seems vital.

I don't really like 'theme' issues, but maybe you could tackle something major and contentious each time, depending on available space, either asking for one substantial piece from somebody with a sound overview of a subject, or pulling together, by strong and purposeful editing, two or three separate contributions. This could be a way of involving higher profile people than might otherwise take an interest, but without just plugging a theory, or a forthcoming book. The aim would be to be authoritative, to be an accurate and thorough source of researched information. It might well give you some clout, on a regular basis, possibly giving the media something to latch on to, if that's what you want. A few possible subject areas might be :-

* The incompatibility of the three main areas of 'alien contact', in terms of the intelligences said to be involved, their behaviour and intentions, and their effects on those with whom they make contact, eg -

1. ET - physical craft/ conscious sightings and experiences

2. Abductions
3. Channelled entities

* Sex and sexuality in reports of alien contact, including the gynaecological stuff, perceived relationships, removal of fetuses, interbreeding, lack of physical evidence, etc

* Recovering memories - hypnosis, regression, false memory, inculcation of memory, investigator, effects, screen memories, memory blocking and unblocking

* Physical effects and consequences of abductions and close encounters. Scars, marks, implants, burns - links with stigmata etc ?

* Ancient astronauts - Sitchin, Dogon, religious texts, evidence of ancient contact, or evidence that human behaviour and beliefs never change ?

* Looking for the Alien - the search for contact in inner space. Altered states, drugs, meditation, dream experience, shamanism and so on.

* Abductee support groups and organisations, and the individuals who run them. Their development, role and effects

* Temporal lobe/endorphin/left brain/right brain/perception effects and their role in UFO/contact/paranormal experience

Commenting on somebody else's work is, of course, the easiest thing in the world. I have nothing but admiration for the way the magazine has been conceived and made to happen, and the effort and thought that

is clearly put in by everybody involved. I wish you all every success !

All the best, Kevin McClure.

(continued from page 18)

those abductees who feel they have had consciousness changing experiences or have been primed for a future purpose through their involvement.

For my money Jenny Randles handles this with an objectivity that enhances her reputation and gives an overdue credibility to a very real problem. The danger of exploring this area is obvious enough, especially when we know from the outset that one star child is Randles herself. Some of the stories are all too easy to dismiss as the ramblings of cranks but it is to the credit of the author that she draws enough substantial evidence together to sustain the arguments throughout the book.

This is a major contribution to the rapidly expanding literature on abductions because it illuminates a middle ground that most of the existing works have missed. This book does not head for the psychology lab in search of ever more complex theories to explain the stories of abductees. There are hundreds of people out there attending the odd conference and reading books on abductions who still feel that some part of the picture is missing. Jenny Randles may just have put it there for us all.

The real strength of this work is that it gets inside the whole abduction experience without

ever losing sight of the reference points on the outside that may lead us to explanations. Having pushed a variety of theories into the public arena in the past Randles is happy to draw connections here and discuss the baffling and bizarre events around the star children in the light of a number of possibilities. The book is improved by the fact that she does not feel the need to conclude with absolute certainty.

The conclusions such as they are suggest a future involving research into areas of psychology, consciousness in general, new age ideas and the possibility of some other life forms being in touch with ourselves. If those ideas sound familiar don't kid yourself that you've already read this book. The evidence gathered here and the way it is presented should contain something to excite the most ardent UFO reader. This is one you should have.

N Nixon

Update

In issue 2 of The New UFOlogist we published an article "Roswell A Case Solved" by Paul Fuller. This article referring to a report issued by the US General Accounting Office into the Roswell case. In fact the report mentioned was merely a preliminary report issued by the United States Air Force in response to the GAO initiative. The final GAO report is not expected to be released until later this year.

THE MAD GASSER OF MATTOON

by Neil Nixon.

Neil Nixon has been interested in UFOs for as long as he can remember. He has been a freelance writer and journalist since 1981 producing a wide range of material from scripts for BBC Radio to stand up comedy. He also works full-time as a manager/lecture in Media Studies in an FE college.

Whilst many people would trace UFO history back to Sanskrit writings or cave paintings the subject has only been studied in its own right since the end of the Second World War. Within this time UFOlogy has begun to behave like any other academic discipline and has gradually developed a series of classic case histories which form a kind of bench-mark by which to measure present events. Betty and Barney Hill's abduction is an example of such a case.

One danger with such cases is that they are reduced to a series of clichés and we find ourselves discussing them without much direct knowledge of the events. For example, I have heard people discuss the Hills' abduction and claim it as a perfect example of hallucination. Not so. The object the Hills encountered was tracked on radar. This doesn't prove it was a craft of

some kind but it does suggest strongly that some physical phenomena/object precipitated the whole event.

In August 1994 the fiftieth anniversary of one of the strangest paranormal cases of the Second World War passed by almost unnoticed - in the UK anyway. No major articles reminded us of the case and no magazine that I read saw fit to mention it.

Earlier in the year I'd read Jim Schnabel's book *Dark White* with interest. Let me get one thing straight before we consider the case. *Dark White* is an excellent book, regardless of the views you may hold on UFOlogy. It is well researched, insightful and honest. A fitting follow up to Schnabel's account of crop circles and those who study them, *Round In Circles*.

On page 144 of this well researched book Jim Schnabel quotes the case of the mad gasser of Mattoon as a case of mass hysteria. To be fair to Schnabel he does discuss in some detail this strange case but he puts forward no real argument against the eventual hysteria conclusion. Indeed it would be surprising if he did as the case comes in the section of the book that explores the hysterical aspects associated with abduction phenomena.

This find set me thinking again about the whole case of the

Mad Gasser and I marked the fiftieth anniversary of the events by chasing up a copy of the only academic study ever published on the case. What bothers me about this case is that it is known now as a classic mass hysteria event and quoted by people, especially some associated with UFO studies, in this respect. I've never found it easy to accept the mass hysteria conclusion.

This article is an attempt on my part to bring the mad gasser up to date and remind people that the case was never simple.

So what happened in Mattoon, Illinois in 1944? In 13 days starting on August 31st the town was subjected to a series of attacks in which residents reported having gas sprayed into their homes late at night. The gas paralysed, burnt and generally terrified people but left no lasting effects and less than two weeks after the strange sequence of events began it was over.

The police, State Troopers, the FBI and local vigilantes failed to apprehend the 'Gasser' and the one serious academic investigation undertaken shortly after the attacks concluded that the whole caper was a case of mass hysteria. Fifty years on this explanation stands and more recent texts like Jim Schnabel's *Dark White* use the case to support arguments on hysteria.

Mass hysteria is hardly a simple phenomenon but to my mind it is still too simple an explanation for the events of half a century ago. Even with most of the main characters dead a simple re-examination of the evidence suggests that the real truth

behind this case is both complex and bizarre.

Given the limited space in this article I will concentrate on a few key 'attacks'. It should be stated at the outset that there is some debate on the exact number of attacks. My figure is drawn from the sources listed at the bottom of the article, in particular Willy Smith's recent re-investigation.

The first case in the story occurred on the night of the 31st of August when a Mattoon resident awoke feeling ill, vomited and then asked his wife if she had left on the gas. She tried to investigate only to discover she was paralysed. The following night Mrs Bert Kearney awoke to a strange smell in the bedroom she shared with her young daughter. As the smell grew stronger she noticed she was paralysed. A scream brought neighbours and eventually the police, none of whom found anything strange. However her husband returning home after midnight and unaware of the earlier events saw a man run from a window of his home. He chased him and only discovered the earlier events when he went inside after failing to catch the prowler.

The next case of real significance occurred on the 5th of September when Mrs Beulah Cordes and her husband returned home to find a white cloth soaked in liquid on their porch. Sniffing the cloth Mrs Cordes experienced a feeling similar to an electric shock and suffered paralysis.

Swelling and burning on her face followed and she began to bleed from her mouth. Police

later discovered a discarded lipstick and skeleton keys on the couple's porch.

Most other cases involved a gas attack in a bedroom with similar effects to those outlined above. As concern rose in the town the small local police force were forced to call in outside help and local vigilantes set up their own patrols.

A press conference on September 12th allowed the police chief to blame the events on a combination of leakages from the town's Atlas diesel works and hysteria. From this point on the police began to treat further cases as hysteria. Only one more case received serious investigation although there is evidence that others may have occurred. Given this switch in police tactics it is doubtful now if the exact number of cases will ever be known.

The investigation of Donald M Johnson of the University of Illinois followed soon after and he decided that the 'Mad Gasser' was the result of hysteria generated by the local press. Johnson met the victims and established clearly that most of them had first become aware of the gasser via the press.

He also noted a phenomenal 97% of locals reading the Mattoon paper, *The Daily Journal-Gazette*. The coverage of the story in this normally sedate and understated paper was certainly unusual. The first coverage of events in the paper was a front page story on September 2nd highlighting the case of Mrs Kearney. Under the headline 'ANAESTHETIC

PROWLER ON THE LOOSE', the paper ran the sub-heading 'Mrs A and Daughter First Victims'. Large scale coverage followed in further editions until another large headline on September 7th declared 'MAD ANAESTHETIST STRIKES AGAIN'. The paper kept up a similar tone throughout the case and stories were circulated to Chicago and eventually to American forces papers overseas.

The crux of Donald M Johnson's conclusions was that this sensationalist reporting had created a climate of hysteria in which local residents interpreted simple events in the context of having a dangerous prowler in their town.

He put the 'attacks' down to hysteria and backed up his claims with statistical data on the level and nature of press coverage and the social background of those claiming to be victims. These people were, he concluded, statistically more likely to suffer from hysteria. Johnson quoted the seminal works on hysteria at the time to support this final claim.

Concise and well structured as it is Johnson's work does have some shortcomings. Firstly, Johnson himself was only an undergraduate at the time. Clearly sincere and keen in his work but a long way short of qualified for such a complex task. Johnson eventually gained a Master's degree in Education in 1952. This strongly suggests he was a freshman at the time of the investigation. He had the support of his instructor and his work was deemed substantial enough for journal

publication but the fact remains that a young undergraduate was the only field investigator to actively research the events on the ground near to the time of the attacks.

Some of this is evident in the published paper. Dealing with 'Characteristics of the Susceptible Sample' Johnson openly looks for differences between those claiming attacks and those who did not and notes that 'the experimental literature on suggestibility and the clinical literature on hysteria offered several attractive hypotheses'. As a note on methods this strongly suggests a researcher trying to neatly fit his sample into an experimental model.

Predicatably Johnson's 'victims' do eventually fit an academic model in his paper. To my mind, and the minds of others like Willy Smith, this is too simple. I've highlighted three cases here that suggest some problems in the mass hysteria theory. The soaked rag, skeleton keys and lipstick found on September 5th were hardly the products of mass hysteria. In other cases ripped window screens and footprints were discovered. The case on August 31st pre-dated the news coverage. In the Kearney case that set the press on the trail the husband had his own sighting of a prowler before he was aware that his wife had suffered an attack. Once more this case pre-dated any of the press coverage and the Kearneys did not know the victims of the previous night's attack. At this time nobody had considered that a series of attacks might be in progress.

Johnson's investigation

candidly notes that his subjects were unwilling to cooperate in any enquiry aimed at uncovering unconscious motivation. This is understandable enough but it does deprive Johnson of the kind of data he would actually need to prove his mass hysteria claim.

Johnson's paper tries very hard to fit the data to cases of mass hysteria but in some places this effort ignores much simpler explanations.

Johnson says that 'it is noteworthy that none of the attacks occurred in either of Mattoon's two high-income areas'. The point he is making is that less successful people with generally low incomes are more likely to suffer hysteria. He fails to consider the fact that better streetlighting and property security in higher income areas might deter a real prowler.

Even if we accept almost all of the cases after the first press coverage as the result of mass hysteria we are still left with the three outlined above that fall outside this conclusion. It is certainly possible that people are mistaken in the things they experience. As I was preparing this article *The Times* provided a reminder of this with the case of a lion hunt in London. Several independent witnesses spotted a big cat loose in the capital. When the culprit was finally cornered it turned out to be a large tomcat with a liking for sponge cake.

The London lion does show how easily a hysterical reaction can turn the mundane into the bizarre but it also shows some of the differences between

such incidents and the more complex 'Mad Gasser'.

The physical evidence in the case of the 'Mad Gasser' holds up to investigation. Skeleton keys and cuts to window blinds are not simply the result of mis-identification. The skeleton keys were, in any case, missed by the victims and discovered later by police.

The press coverage of the events is certainly unusual. Especially so for a local paper more accustomed to an unspectacular view of events. The mention of the 'First Victims' in the opening report on September 2nd is the strangest aspect of the whole press involvement. Did the local paper know something the residents and police didn't? Did they sense a good long running story or was this headline simply the result of careless journalism? The last possibility seems unlikely given the number of people who would see the headline ahead of publication. The other possibilities suggest trails of enquiry not followed at the time and stone cold fifty years later. Willy Smith suggested recently that 'Ambitious newspapermen had everything to gain and nothing to lose'.

Of course the simplest possibility is that a real life gasser did exist and did attack the citizens of Mattoon fifty years ago. His attacks frightened people but left no lasting damage to his victims suggesting strongly that this was intended as a joke.

With the presence of three official branches of law enforcement in town and the

even less attractive prospect of being caught by the local vigilantes the attacker decided to call a halt to his/her campaign. *

Fifty years on it's difficult to give the definitive answer. I think it is safe to say that Johnson's research paper is well intentioned but flawed in that it fails to prove mass hysteria. The belief in mass hysteria today is the result of many people accepting the conclusions of this paper without taking the trouble to read it. I'm not blaming anyone - as time goes by it gets harder and harder to find copies of the original.

The journalistic scam is an interesting idea with some evidence to support it but the few traces of physical evidence and the fact that some attacks, of necessity, occurred before anyone had suggested the possibility of a 'Mad Gasser' still suggests a prankster.

As an odd postscript to this case there are two other similar cases on record. In Coatesville, Pennsylvania in February 1944 three people died in one house after inhaling a mysterious sweet smelling gas. Neighbours also had to seek medical attention. In December 1961 a 'sweet smelling gas' sent a hundred people reeling out of a church in Houston, Texas.

These other cases are significant in that both are isolated incidents that closely resemble the 'Mad Gasser' attacks. They suggest that some direct physical cause could produce such effects.

So long after the events our best chance of a definitive

answer probably lies with a confession similar to that earlier this year which finally cleared up the hoax behind the 'Surgeon's photograph' of the Loch Ness Monster. That confession came six decades after the event. All I can suggest is that you keep up the subscriptions to New Ufologist and watch this space in ten years time.

* I'm not just being politically correct here. Some eyewitness reports suggested that the 'Mad Gasser' may have been female.

SOURCES

Loren Coleman, *Mysterious America* (Faber and Faber 1984).

Donald M. Johnson, 'The Phantom Anaesthetist of Mattoon: A Field Study of Mass Hysteria', *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*, 40 (1945).

Jim Schnabel, *Dark White* (Hamish Hamilton, 1994).

Willy Smith, 'Mattoon Revisited', *Magonia*, 48 (1994).

The Times, 1994. On cat sighting.



Calendar

19/20th August 1995.

BUFORA's 8th International UFO Congress.

University of Hallam, Sheffield,

South Yorkshire. England.

Speakers will present the very latest evidence from around the world, including Dr Leo Sprinkle, Per Andersen, Malcom Robinson, John Spencer, Cynthia Hind, Maurizio Verga and others.

Contact: Congress '95, 1 Woodhall Drive, Batley, West Yorkshire. WF17 7SW. England.

26/27th August 1995.

The Paranormal Conference of the Century.

Organised by the South Wales UFO Group.

Speakers to include Reg Presley, David Icke, Paul Darman, Prof John E Mack, Michael Roll, Busty Taylor, Jenny Randles and John Holman.

Contact: Kerry Blower on +44 (0)1633 874983 for further details.

1/2/3 September 1995.

The 14th Leeds International UFO Conference.

Leeds, England.

Speakers to include Michael Heseman, Kevin Randle, Don Schmitt, Tony Dodd, Linda Moulton-Howe, Graham Birdsall.

Contact: The Conference Organiser, PO Box XG60, Leeds. LS15 9Xd. England.

Right To Reply

David Newton
Newcastle upon Tyne

To the Editor:

May I first say how much I have enjoyed reading the first two issues of The New UFOlogist. It has great potential.

In 'the Stonehenge Event', issue 2, Albert Budden discusses his theory that alien contact experience are due to the human body reacting to the electronic pollution that surrounds us in this modern age. I am impressed by Mr Budden's work, but would like to sound a warning note before too many people get swept up with 'allergy fever'.

In Allergies and Aliens Mr Budden lists the sources of such 'electronic pollution': radio transmitters, microwave relay stations, power lines and pylons, underground cables, transformers and even railway lines. Is there anywhere in the country that is more than a short distance (let us say 1 mile) from one or more of these sources? Wherever someone has an alien experience, I can almost guarantee that Mr Budden will be able to find one of his sources of electromagnetic pollution. Does this prove his theory? Not at all. All it proves is that wherever you find people, you also find electrical devices.

(And flushing toilets - but I'm not going to try blaming them for alien encounters.) In short, I believe Budden's theory is not falsifiable in its present form.

Budden also adds to his list some natural phenomena, such as ball lightning and earthlights. These are little understood phenomena and yet, in his article, Budden confidently tells us that they are 'powerful sources of electromagnetic radiation' which can 'induce close encounter sensations'.

Since earthlights are visible to witnesses, they must emit visible light - a type of electromagnetic radiation. They may emit light because they are simply hot and not because of any complex electrical activity. And how do these 'powerful sources of electromagnetic pollution' actually cause the close encounter? What evidence does Budden have to show that earthlights produce magnetic fields (not electromagnetic radiation) similar to the fields Persinger uses?

Being trained in physics I am not happy with the way Budden uses some of his terms. Exactly what sort of pollution are we talking about? Electric fields? Magnetic fields? Electromagnetic radiation? Budden seems to use these terms interchangeably, as if they were identical - which they are not.

Mr Budden has the basis of a very good theory. But we need to know the types of fields we are dealing with, and the powers, frequencies and bandwidths of his sources. Simple bandying around the

magical words 'earthlight', 'Persinger' and 'electromagnetic pollution' will not impress anyone within the scientific community.

Albert Budden replies to David Newton's letter.

Newton has failed to understand that it is the combination of hotspot, major electrical event, childhood abuse and all the clinical parameters listed in Allergies and Aliens that are involved in CE3/4 cases. These include food allergies, electrical hypersensitivity, photophobia, chemical sensitivities, automatic behaviour, sense of presence, desynchronisation, intense and recurrent déjà vu, hypergraphia, somaesthesia and hyperaesthesia. In many cases, we are looking at a 25 point match between what I predict as basic parameters and what has been found in the field by investigators of CE3/4 cases.

Newton proclaims that my approach is not falsifiable, which is nonsense. In fact, my own on-going investigations have shown that in some cases I was wrong, and I now have to modify my approach. It is becoming clear to me that some of the cases I have looked at are temporal lobe epilepsy (TLE) type states triggered by normal ambient field levels, volatile chemicals and/or hyperventilation as opposed to electrically hypersensitive (EH) subjects in hotspots.

Newton's next point is similarly wide of the mark. He debates the presence of EM fields other than visible light. EH individuals display a range of

signs and symptoms in clinical situations when exposed to magnetic fields, and these have been reported repeatedly by CE percipients who have got close to the orange ball of light phenomenon found in faulted zones. Newton asks how the sources of these EM fields cause the close encounter. I have gone to great lengths to trace the development of encounter eligibility from electrical initiation via a major electrical event, from the development of food and chemical sensitivities to an acute end state where EH and epileptiform states are developed through prolonged irradiation.

After looking at this for two years now, I sort of know that magnetic fields are not the same as electrical fields, especially as they are measured in separate units on my field meter, which I use to carry out dosimetric survey of locations. As far as their effects on the EH individual go, they can both induce the signs and symptoms described. The human organism can become sensitised to both and any field type, frequency and/or amplitude from milligauss ELF magnetic fields to microwaves. In fact, one of the debates in electromagnetic pollution study is whether it is magnetic or electrical fields which is most disturbing to the human organism.

Finally, Newton's comments about our lack of knowledge regarding ball lightning is behind the times. Two researchers in the US have produced spectacular coloured electrical fireballs i.e. artificial ball lightning in the laboratory using a Tesla coil to induce a powerful intermodulation

effect, and have reproduced the effects of BL passing through panes of glass. I hope to give demonstrations of this in London later this year.

Jenny Randles

To the Editor:

Steuart Campbell's daft statement (p.23 last issue) that because he received the last printed word of our debate in JTAP he assumed I was now accepting his thesis - that Alan Godfrey saw a mirage of the planet Venus - will fool nobody who has ever tried to have one of these debates with a sceptic.

As I pointed out in my review of his book, *The UFO Mystery Solved*, in order to reach the conclusion he did about this case Steuart had to have the witness facing SE toward Todmorden (and thus able to see Venus) exactly opposite to the direction the witness maintains he was travelling. I submit that such a fundamental distortion of the facts should have been made clear to Campbell's readers.

To support his contention, Steuart refers in his original (1988) JTAP article to a photograph from my book, *The Pennine UFO Mystery* (Grafton, 1983), showing the witness standing on the side of the road where traffic heading into Todmorden would pass. This is not a wide road and the precise spot where the witness stood was dictated by the fact that, with a river and brick wall behind me (as the photographer), I could not have composed the picture correctly had the witness stood a few feet nearer the camera! To

formulate such a judgement on the basis of a trivial point within a picture and without interviewing the witness is, I submit, incompetent investigation.

In my letter to JTAP I cited Alan's testimony under hypnosis, in which he clearly described approaching the junction with Ferney Lee Road, putting on his indicator to turn right, stopping at that junction and seeing the UFO ahead of him up the road. This only makes sense if Alan was driving away from Todmorden - as otherwise he would have had to turn left. This matches what he said out of hypnosis.

As further justification for changing Godfrey's story, Steuart said in JTAP that in my own account (citing page 126 of my book) I report that six weeks after the encounter 'Godfrey had "forgotten" that he had turned the car around...He thought he had driven straight back to the police station [at Todmorden]' (Campbell's words, not mine).

It is revealing to look at what my book actually says. I write: 'According to his initial report, Alan believed that his next action was to turn the car around and drive back ... to the police station. But when interviewed, six weeks later, he suddenly looked at the investigators and in an amazed voice said "remembered" getting out of the car for a few seconds and staring up into the sky behind him, to confirm that the object really had vanished. He then did get back into the car and drove back into town.'

The word 'forgotton' in my text clearly relates to an additional

memory (of getting out of the car before driving back into town). It certainly does not mean that he changed his mind and believed that he had never turned the car round before driving back. Steuart seems to be finding evidence in witness statements that is not actually there but which supports a preconcluded theory.

As for his silly inference that if I do not support his view that the UFO was a mirage then I am proposing that it was an alien spacecraft. I will just ask people to read my book. In it I suggest that earth energies in the Todmorden area were creating mind distortions; I was one of the first to suggest this concept in a book within the context of a real close encounter.

Even Alan Godfrey is not endorsing ET spaceships - though he is adamant that what he saw was a tangible reality which made the trees shake and swirl dried the road surface. Quite a feat for Venus - via a mirage or not!

Kenneth Parsons
The Bedford Earth and Aerial
Mysteries Societies

To the Editor:

Would you like to see some magic? You would? Good - then watch mincemeat being made out of hogwash! I refer to the ramblings of ex-civil servant Albert Budden in The New UFOlogist, issue 2, in which he talks about 'the Stonehenge event'.

Even Paul Devereux pondered, in his book Earthlights: Are

UFOs "spirits" as the ancients once believed?' But, devoid of any sense of mystery, Budden once again cuts at yet another classic UFO encounter with his dead-from-the-neck-up attitude, leaving its mutilated carcass labelled an 'Hallucinatory Reality' - the result of the witness having been irradiated with an electromagnetic field.

Apparently, accordingly to my friend Rod Howarth, Albert has watched Masters of the Stars by Genesis III - watched as an unidentified object strolls along the air corridors above Mexico, stops dead in the sky, enters a cloud formation, backs out again and then resumes its flight path. But, for him, 'these are not UFOs'. Then what are they? These objects might not, by some remote chance, be related to the globe of orange light encountered by those witnesses at Stonehenge in 1990, might they?

Devereux used the emotive word 'spirits' because he too was astounded by the sentient nature of the UFOs. But 'spirit' is not an apt piece of terminology - even he didn't feel comfortable with it, though he had a point.

Oh, of course, I forgot - the Mexican object must be the result of electronic pollution. Shame that this doesn't account for how similar objects have been filmed above Area 51, Nevada!

Funny coincidence, don't you think, that the military have denied any such base exists in what has been called 'the most inhospitable place on earth', and yet the base has been filmed by ex-Vietnam

researcher Bill Cooper. He has also filmed strange cigar-shaped objects forming in the clouds above Groom Dry Lake. But these are all hallucinations, aren't they, Mr Budden.

Instead of using Mike Persinger as a role model, try following the likes of Bill Cooper, and you might not end up going the way of Terence 'Plasma Vortex' Meaden.

Albert Budden replies to
Kenneth Parsons

Kenneth Parsons complains that I strip the Stonehenge event of 'a sense of mystery'. However the whole point, I would have thought, is to seek to understand such phenomena, as mystery-mongering has got us nowhere in the past fifty years. If Kenneth wants mystery then let him read some of the many horror-fantasy books on the market. I cannot entertain him in this way, as I am too busy trying to understand these things, and I actually feel that the investigation of these weird consciousness effects is exciting. Truth is stranger than fiction.

Kenneth then complains because a video fails to impress me. I can't really remember what he is talking about but, considering UFOs generally, does he not know that 95% of promising UFO sightings turn out to be misidentifications of mundane objects? This should be carved over every investigator's bed. The Genesis video may show something unusual but, without any background information, such footage leaves a lot to be desired. I certainly did not see

the aspects he appears to have seen.

I think the whole problem here rests on the fact that Kenneth appears to be a believer. He buys all this American mythology about Ets and Area 51, just as I did so many years ago. But the problem with it is that you just can't check up on it. It is take it or leave it. These believers use UFOlogy to brighten up their lives with mystery and intrigue. They treat their mysteries like museum pieces in glass cases, looking at them with wonder but not getting to grips with what they really are and what gives rise to reports about them. They get very upset if you break the glass and start examining the exhibits.

I do not think that all UFOs are due to electronic pollution at all, and have never said so. 95% are IFOs and the rest are a mixture of secret devices, unusual atmospheric phenomena, optical effects, hallucinations and hoaxes. In all of the dozen cases I have investigated over the past fifteen years I have never looked as hard for them as anyone. You see Kenneth, there is a problem, and perhaps you could help with this.

What simple test could be applied to these cases to show conclusively that they are alien in nature? Because, if you cannot test for something, how do you know that it has any basis in reality? One has to have faith that aliens are involved, and that is religion, not science.

The Last Word

Black Manta Photographed over Southampton ?

Rumours that the secret "Black Manta" prototype fighter crashed at Boscombe Down airfield on September 26th 1994 may help to explain an intriguing photographic case from Southampton (writes Paul Fuller). On August 14th, at 23:15 BST, two witnesses observed and photographed two "piercing" white lights low over the northern sky from their home in central Southampton. The lights were side-by-side, very close together and about the size of a pentop 3mm in diameter held at arms length. For several minutes the lights remained stationary, allowing one of the witnesses to grab his AW818 camera, wait for the flash to warm up, and then take a single photograph as the lights began to move towards his location. Rather oddly, his camera then jammed and subsequently two of the frames revealed pin point damage on the negatives. Over a period of about 2 minutes the lights then began to move southwards - away from the Salisbury/Boscombe Down area - and both witnesses observed the "craft" as it flew directly above their home. The second witness reported seeing an oval-shaped light grey object with six red lights positioned around the perimeter as it passed overhead. Both witnesses heard a "deep, resonating" sound as the object which was unlike that of an ordinary aircraft. The weather that night was clear and there was no moon.

According to several articles

which appeared in the national and regional press, something odd took place at Boscombe Down Airfield at about midnight on September 26th, six weeks after this UFO sighting. A rumour developed that an experimental aircraft - possibly the Stealth fighter or even the Black Manta TR-3A spy plane - had crashed at the end of the runway, killing its two man crew. Aircraft enthusiasts reportedly picked up distress signals from the stricken aircraft before it crashed. The following morning several made their way to Boscombe Down, but were prevented from viewing the airbase close up by Police manned road-blocks. It was later alleged that an unusual aircraft was seen near the end of the runway, hidden under tarpaulins. According to the "Sunday Telegraph" (December 18th) observers managed to catch a glimpse of twin inward-canted fins poking through the tarpaulins. A few days later, a huge C-5 Galaxy transport plane allegedly flew into Boscombe Down and took the downed aircraft back to Palmdale, California, where the Stealth aircraft is built. Now could this unusual craft, with its rounded apexes and unusual delta-shaped wings, be the same "craft" which was photographed 40 miles to the south a few weeks earlier ?

A number of researchers have tried to link the alleged crash at Boscombe Down with UFO reports made last Autumn. In "The Cerealogist" George Wingfield cites a case reported from Deptford, six miles to the north east of Salisbury. According to a report published in the "The Western Daily Press" on 19th August, a "frantic" lorry driver spotted a

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"triangular-shaped object with rounded edges and green and white lights hovering beside the road" as he drove along the A303. The driver reported his experience to the Police but by the time they arrived the craft had disappeared. Allegedly numerous other car drivers flashed their headlights at the craft. Wingfield points out that the lorry driver's description could refer to the TR-3A Black Manta spy plane, which is possibly being tested at the UFO-haunted Groom Lake site ("Area 51") in Nevada. It is certainly valid speculation in the absence of confirmatory evidence.

However, what makes an unusual case into an important case is that one of the Southampton witnesses underwent pre pilot training at RAF Cramwell/ Cosford, flying Bulldogs, a few years previously. During the initial phase of the UFO sighting he attempted to rationalise the lights as those of a hovering harrier or helicopter. However, this interpretation was ruled out by the object's subsequent appearance and its peculiar noise. Both the witness and Paul Fuller approached numerous civilian airports without being able to establish that a normal aircraft was in the area at the time.

The witness even contacted Air Staff 2A at the Ministry of Defence and the joint military-civilian radar centre at West Drayton, near London, in his attempt to discover what it was that he had seen and photographed. Unfortunately West Drayton were not very helpful. In a good case like this it is not surprising that a number of official sources were prepared to commit their opinions to paper. Southampton Police confirmed that their spotter plane was not flying that night and that, rather oddly, no other

reports were received about the two lights. Southampton Eastleigh airport (located only five miles to the north) confirmed that the airport was closed at the time of the sighting but that other aircraft could be flying over the area from other locations. A more helpful response was received from Air Traffic Control at Heathrow Airport (70 miles to the north east). They reported that whilst Southampton was outside their area of control a local base such as Southampton Eastleigh or A&AEE Boscombe Down might have been providing radar cover to any aircraft. Heathrow also suggested, quite independently, that because of the intensity of the lights the Hampshire Police spotter plane might have been involved. Heathrow helpfully confirmed that no Virgin airships were flying in the vicinity. Birmingham ATC (120 miles to the north) reported that they could find no record of an aircraft which could have departed from Birmingham and flown over the Southampton area. Unfortunately a letter to Boscombe Down elicited no response.

As mentioned earlier, the two UFO witnesses contacted Air Staff 2A to report their sighting. In a reply dated 17th August Kerry Philpott stated "I have studied your report, and have spoken to our air defense advisers and can tell you that there were no unusual radar traces in the Southampton area on Sunday evening. I can also confirm that this office has not heard from any other members of the public regarding this incident." Paul Fuller queried this with Kerry Philpott as he felt that this was a somewhat ambiguous comment. Kerry Philpott replied, pointing out that

"rather than state that I was unaware of any aircraft that could be responsible for this [UFO] sighting, I said that on speaking to our air defense advisers I ascertained that there were no unusual radar traces in the Southampton area that Sunday evening" (letter dated 3 October 1994). Of course, both these replies could be construed as an admission that a radar trace was detected, and that that trace represented a known aircraft. Interestingly, in a letter to the Earth Mysteries magazine "3rd Stone", dated 7th March 1995, Kerry Philpott denied that an air crash took place at Boscombe Down, stating that "In response to your enquiry I am not aware of an aircraft crash on Salisbury Plain on the evening of 26th September. However, I am aware of a press report alleging a crash at Boscombe Down airfield on the same evening. Staff at Boscombe Down have confirmed that there was no crash on the 26 September and the only flying which took place out of Boscombe Down that evening was the launch of two Royal Navy Sea King helicopters in support of an Exercise". Again, even this brush off could be misleading if the alleged crash actually occurred five minutes into September 27th. Ultimately we are left in an unsatisfactory situation. Were all three sets of witnesses to these incidents simply mistaken? Were the UFO sightings simply normal aircraft? And what triggered the intense interest in the aircraft spotting community? Were three sets of witnesses simply seeing and hearing and photographing things which were not really there?

The NEW UFOlogist will report back as this investigation continues.

Paul Fuller